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12/B

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

TATSUYA TANAKA ET AL.

: EXAMINER: TRAN, L.

SERIAL NO: 09/550,331

RCE FILED: HERewith

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1725

FOR: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
INJECTION MOLDING LIGHT
METAL ALLOY

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED
JAN 17 2002
TC 1700

SIR:

Preliminary to the examination of the above-referenced application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claim 1.

Please amend the claims as shown in the marked-up copy attached to read as follows:

2. (Amended) An injection molding apparatus as defined in claim 25, further comprising:

a hopper for storing the molten metal connected to an upper portion of the chamber.

3. (Amended) An injection molding apparatus as defined in claim 25, wherein the screw extruder has an injection function of moving the extrusion screw in the axial direction to inject the molten metal of the semi-solidified slurry.